Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, NATO

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS COMMENTS TO TASS ON CSCE

REF: (A) STATE 184143 (B) USNATO 4230

1. ACCORDING TO THE AUGUST 10 ISSUE OF THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY (ANA) BULLETIN, FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GAVE AN INTERVIEW TO THE ATHENS TASS CORRESPONDENT IN CONNECTION

WITH THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE CSCE. THE TEXT OF THE INTERVIEW AS REPORTED BY ANA IS AS FOLLOWS: "QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE RESULTS, IN YOUR OPINION, OF THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED A YEAR AGO IN HELSINKI? ANSWER: IN THE COURSE OF THE YEAR THAT HAS LAPSED SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT, CERTAIN STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN SUCH AS ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MILITARY EXERCISES HELD IN THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN OBSERVERS, CERTAIN FACILITIES GRANTED TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS. AND AN IMPROVED SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION IN THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR. WE SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, FORGET THAT THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE IS CONSIDERED TO CONSTITUTE A LANDMARK IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. EUROPEANS AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE WORLD ARE EXPECTING FROM IT MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS. RESULTS TO SAFEGUARD THE SECURITY AND THE HARMONIOUS COLLABORATION OF PARTICIPATING STATES AND TO CONSOLIDATE A DETENTE DESIRED BY ALL NATIONS. WE MUST ADMIT, HOWEVER, THAT AS FAR AS WE GREEKS ARE CONCERNED, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI RESOLUTIONS IS FAR FROM SATISFACTORY. WE CONNOT OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT THE CYPRIOT DRAMA, WHOSE DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDE VIOLATION OF ALMOST ALL THE HELSINKI PRINCIPLES, HAS NOT TAKEN ONE STEP FORWARD TOWARDS ITS SOLUTION. ON THE OTHER HAND WE RECOGNIZE THE FACT THAT THE TWELVE MONTHS THAT HAVE PASSED ARE A RATHER SHORT PERIOD OF TIME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE."

2. SOME GREEK NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT BITSIOS ALSO
REFERRED TO THE 1975 BALKAN CONFERENCE IN ATHENS AS AN
EXAMPLE OF THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
HELSINKI AGREEMENTS. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE COMMENTED
"IT IS NECESSARY THAT I ADD THAT THE BALKAN COUNTRIES
WHICH SIGNED THE FINAL ACT HAVE REALIZED AN IMPORTANT
ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE AREA OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE BALKAN STATES, AN EVENT IN WHICH REPRESENTATIVES
OF BULGARIA, ROMANIA, TURKEY, YUGOSLAVIA AND GREECE
PARTICIPATED, AND WHICH WAS THE IMMEDIATE AND POSITIVE
REALIZATION OF THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI."
KUBISCH

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